TIMES-VIRGINIAN

In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt
Appomattox, Virginia

ESTABLISHED 1892

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AN AMERICAN PLAGUE

One of the unbelievable things about our great country is that we continue to allow the slaughter of a hundred citizens a day on our highways and city streets. There is nothing that can be written about this carnage in our American way of life that will change the situation overnight.

There is little to be written, which has not already been covered more eloquently before — by someone else. Nevertheless, those charged with the responsibility of writing editorials for the nation's press cannot see the continuing carnage on the highways, year after year, with a stilled and quiet pen.

What is to be done about the killing, which is more deadly than any war? If we are so emotionally disturbed (and rightfully) about the slaughter of our manhood in wars, why are we less disturbed by equally unjust killings of little children, boys and girls, and adults, by automobiles and trucks, by drunken, careless, or unlicensed drivers?

No one answer can be offered as a solution to the great American ending. The solution lies in a thoroughly aroused public opinion, which, in its wrath, will finally demand that adequate steps be taken to curb the slaughter. When this day comes, patience with drunken driving, with careless drivers, with repeated offenses, and with flagrant violations of sound and safety laws will end.

Then, the American people will grow up and take driving seriously, and reduce the number of tragic deaths of children and adults alike —many of whom die through no fault of their own, only to have society do comparatively nothing to punish their killer.

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GOOD SEED FOR GOOD CROPS

The farmers of Appomattox County are about to begin their new year. They will soon initiate the crops upon which they will depend for a living income. Into the uncertain lap of the weather and the market, they will consign their fortune and the well-being of the families for which they labor.

It is not a very inviting prospect for farmers. What the future holds, in regard to yield, is hard to determine. What may be expected in the way of prices is also uncertain. There are risks that are inevitable, but no unnecessary liability should be callously or wantonly added.

Too often a farmer plants his crop without considering the great importance of the seed. Heavy losses result every year, in every crop, from poor seed. Good seed is important. It is the good beginning which enables one farmer to outdo his neighbor. Good seed will mean good stands, healthy plants, with ability to live, and grow, and to withstand temporary setbacks.

We urge every farmer who reads this article to determine to plant only the best seed this spring. This is one expenditure which will pay big dividends.

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VALUE OF TRAVEL

A news dispatch recently quoted John Saxton, Hollywood movie star, as saying youngsters need more travel — in order to see how other people think and feel, and what problems they face.

Among other things, the young actor—from Brooklyn—says that all of us need to compare our lives with those of someone else. He says that a change of scenery would do much for many Brooklyn Hoodlums, who have nothing to compare their present lives with.

We are in agreement with Saxton, and not only do we believe that youngsters should travel but we believe that old people should travel more, also. Older people tend to have fixed opinions and to become set in their ways and their beliefs. Nothing is better, and more refreshing, than a change of scenery, and nothing is more stimulating to their intellectual processes.

In modern times, when travel can be accomplished relatively inexpensively, and in very little time, the modern-day tourist, or world traveler, has an open road for education and advancement, open to him. This is a little early in the year, but it is not too early to begin saving for a really valuable vacation trip this summer. We suggest that you think along these lines, and take advantage of the travel opportunities open to us all in 1958, because of the modern low-cost facilities available and the fact that the world is at peace.

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ADVICE FROM THE HEART (ASSOCIATION) . . . . . .

What you eat and the quantity thereof probably measures the length of your life. The importance of diet in the well-being of individuals has been increasingly recognized in recent decades, although one often wonders why, for so many years, no one seems to have undertaken a real study of the fuel content of the human body.

There are wise people who believe that, given a proper diet, the individual could avoid disease. Of course, proper diet, spread over several generations, would be necessary because of physical weaknesses that are transmitted from generation to generation.

Doctors have learned that lack of certain substances in food is responsible for many of our ills. The same discovery may be made about other scourges that inflict suffering and death upon human beings.

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The way to get rid of a friend who wants to borrow some money is to lend him money; you won't see him again for a long, long time.

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The other day we met a fellow who offered to make us some quick money — if we advanced him a little first.

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Only twelve and a half years after World War II we face a military threat far more ominous than that of Adolph Hitler, and again are unprepared.

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The person who always has an emphatic and final opinion should not be taken too seriously.

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The bad driver is the one who doesn't have wrecks even when the other fellow is wrong.

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So many people are so worried about the future that they overlook the tasks of the present.

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A reputation, acquired through publicity, is not to be confused with character, acquired through living.

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When you indict your government, you are blaming yourself and other voters.

Work Program of Local F. F. A.

The Robert E. Lee F. F. A. Chapter at Appomattox High School has a comprehensive program of work. It includes ten major parts, of which a few will be listed here:

Central in the F. F. A. Vocational Agriculture study is the Supervised Farming Program. This program includes three parts which must be agreed to by the student, his parents or landlord, and the teacher. It includes Productive Enterprises—crops or livestock raised by the member for profit and experience; it includes Improvement Projects such as seeding lawns, repairing buildings or constructing labor saving devices; and supplementary farm jobs such as woodland management and soil conservation practices.

Cooperation and community service is included in the F. F. A. program. Under this phase the Chapter owns a purebred Angus bull, which is used by members and others in the community for the improvement of their beef herds. The Chapter sponsors a Hampshire Pig Chain. Through this Chain 7 Hampshire sow pigs have been placed with members during the past year. Members raise these pigs according to approved practices and breed them to the purebred Chapter boar. When the sow farrows they return a pig to the Chapter to be placed with another member. The Chapter boar is kept and cared for at the home farm of Nelson Mann.

The Chapter owns an orchard sprayer and pruning equipment, which is used for caring for home orchards. The Chapter cooperates each year with the Forest Service and the county fire warden by organizing a Keep Virginia Green Crew to be ready to fight fires at any time. The members work with the Soil Conservation and the A. C. P. Program in trying to promote good soil Conservation practices.

Other community services which the Robert E. Lee Chapter engages in include taking soil samples; planting wildlife feed patches; planting pine seedlings; and giving a Christmas basket to a needy family each year.

One of the main purposes of the F. F. A. is to develop leadership. This is done by studying parliamentary procedure and using it in the meetings. All memers are given experience on committee work. Public speaking is studied and a public speaking contest is held each year.

Members get training in business and finance. First, by having a budget committee which makes plans for financing Chapter activities. These plans must be approved by the members. Second, by each member planning a budget for his enterprises expenses and income, and following this through by keeping actual records on his enterprises.

The F. F. A. is not all work, however. For recreation the Chapter sponsors square dances, holds a Chapter picnic, plays volleyball, softball and horseshoes, attends fairs and farm shows and holds a Father-Son Banquet.

LITTLE BOYS BASEBALL GROUPS ORGANIZED

South Boston, Va.- Little Boys Baseball, Inc., a southern-born baseball organization for boys 12 years of age and younger, has set May 1 as the deadline for leagues to enter the 1958 program.

Hugh M. Moore, of South Boston, Va., state director of Little Boys Baseball, said this week he expected several new league in Virginia to affiliate this year. Last year, only South Boston belonged to the 673-team program.

All-star teams from Little Boys leagues are eligible to compete in tournament play after the conclusion of the regular season, Moore said, with the Dixie World Series at Columbias, Mississippi, August 18-23 climaxing the post-season activity.

Little Boys Baseball, Inc., was organized at Charleston, South Carolina, during the fall of 1955 and has enjoyed a large measure of success in its two seasons of operation.

The organization is predominantly a southern one, but it does not limit membership to the southern states. Last year, Highwood, Illinois, became the first northern league to affiliate.

Individuals or civic groups interested in obtaining information about Little Boys Baseball may do so by contacting Hugh M. Moore, 2119 Willow Street, South Boston, or by writing to Little Boys Baseball, P. O. Box 1247, No. Charleston, S. C.

Subscription rate: $2.00 a year; payable in advance.

Appomattox is a growing town.

MAN'S BEST FRIEND

Southampton, England.- There is a blind purebred greyhound named Flash who has his own guide dog to help him about. Flash was half starved and blinded by disease when found in London by the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

A newspaper story about him attracted the attenton of Mr. and Mrs. George Corbin, of Southampton. The Corbin's little Puggy, had been guide Labrodar dog during the daily walks. The Corbin into their home, and guides both dogs.

January's stock mark since August.

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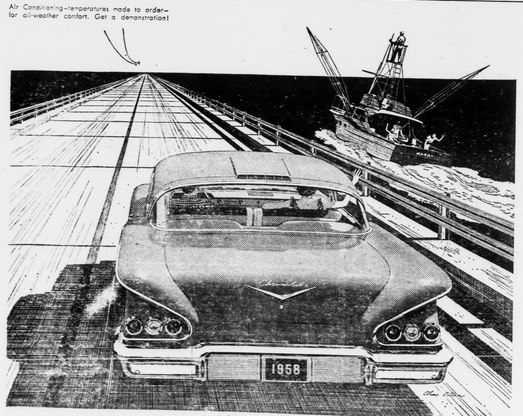

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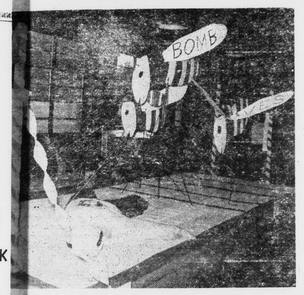
A SALUTE TO THE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

F. F. A. BOYS LEARN TO PRUNE

F. F. A. boys learn by doing. Picture shows W. Lewis Motley, local vocational agriculture instructor demonstrating how to prune home orchard trees.

F. F. A. SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



The local F. F. A. boys take pride in their school activities. Shown here is the float they constructed last fall for the homecoming float parade. The F. F. A. float won first prize in the parade of floats.

THIS IS NATIONAL F. F. A. WEEK

Future Farmers of America members throughout the nation are scheduling special activities to focus public attention on the work of their organization during National F. F. A. Week, February 22 - March 1.

Locally, members of the Robert E. Lee Chapter are putting up posters, and on Tuesday night held their annual Father-Son Banquet to which many local businessmen and other leaders were invited.

Membership in the F. F. A. is made up of farm boys who are students of vocational agriculture in high school. The organization's activities are designed primarily to help develop rural leadership and good citizenship, and to stimulate the boys to better achievement in their study and work toward successful establishment in farming.

The Robert E. Lee Chapter of the F. F. A. has 92 members. Officers of the local Chapter are:

Kinckle Martin, president; Luther Reynolds, vice-president; Ralph Inge, secretary; Dennis Torrence, treasurer; Jack Tibbs, reporter, and David Austin, sentinel. H. B. Pack, W. L. Motley, and R. N. Ashworth, vocational agriculture instructors in Appomattox High School, serve as advisors of the F. F. A. Chapter.

The national Future Farmer organization has 380,000 members, with 9,000 local chapters in the 48 states, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

Membership in Virginia totals 8,139.

Future Farmers choose the week of George Washington's birthday each year for the observance of National F. F. A. Week. Although usually recognized as a Revolutionary War General and First President, Washington's first love was the farm he called Mount Vernon. There, he was one of the first in the nation to practice coutour planting, crop rotations, fertilization, and other soil conservation and improvement methods.

THE FFA MOTTO

"Learning to do,
Doing to learn;
Earning to live,
Living to serve."

Learning To Do —(As vocational agriculture students in high school, Future Farmers study the practical, scientific principles of agriculture that will enable them to become good farmers.)

Doing To Learn—(Each member is required to conduct a farming program at home, under the supervision of his vocational agriculture instructor. The student thus gets practical experience to supplement his study.)

Earning To Live—(The supervised farming program at home is designed to operate at a profit so that the Future Farmer may expand his farming enterprises as he learns, to the end that he will be succeafully established in farming and become a self-supporting, substantial citizen.)

Living To Serve—(Development of competent, aggressive rural leadership and citizenship is a primary aim of the FFA; practical experiences in parliamentary procedure, committee work, and conducting other business of an organization are provided through regular chapter meetings.)

Voc.-Agric. SHOP PROJECTS IMPROVE FARMING

Dennis Torrence is shown here with a cattle feeder he constructed as part of his vocational agriculture course. This improvement project will help Dennis and his Dad to do a better job of farming. Dennis is a junior at Appomattox High School.

THE F. F. A. IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

Picture shows local F. F. A. boys gathering popular seed cones for the Forest Service. These seed must be gathered at a special time of the year and delivered quickly to the forest service. They are used to produce seedlings necessary to reforest Virginia's dwindling woodland areas.

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